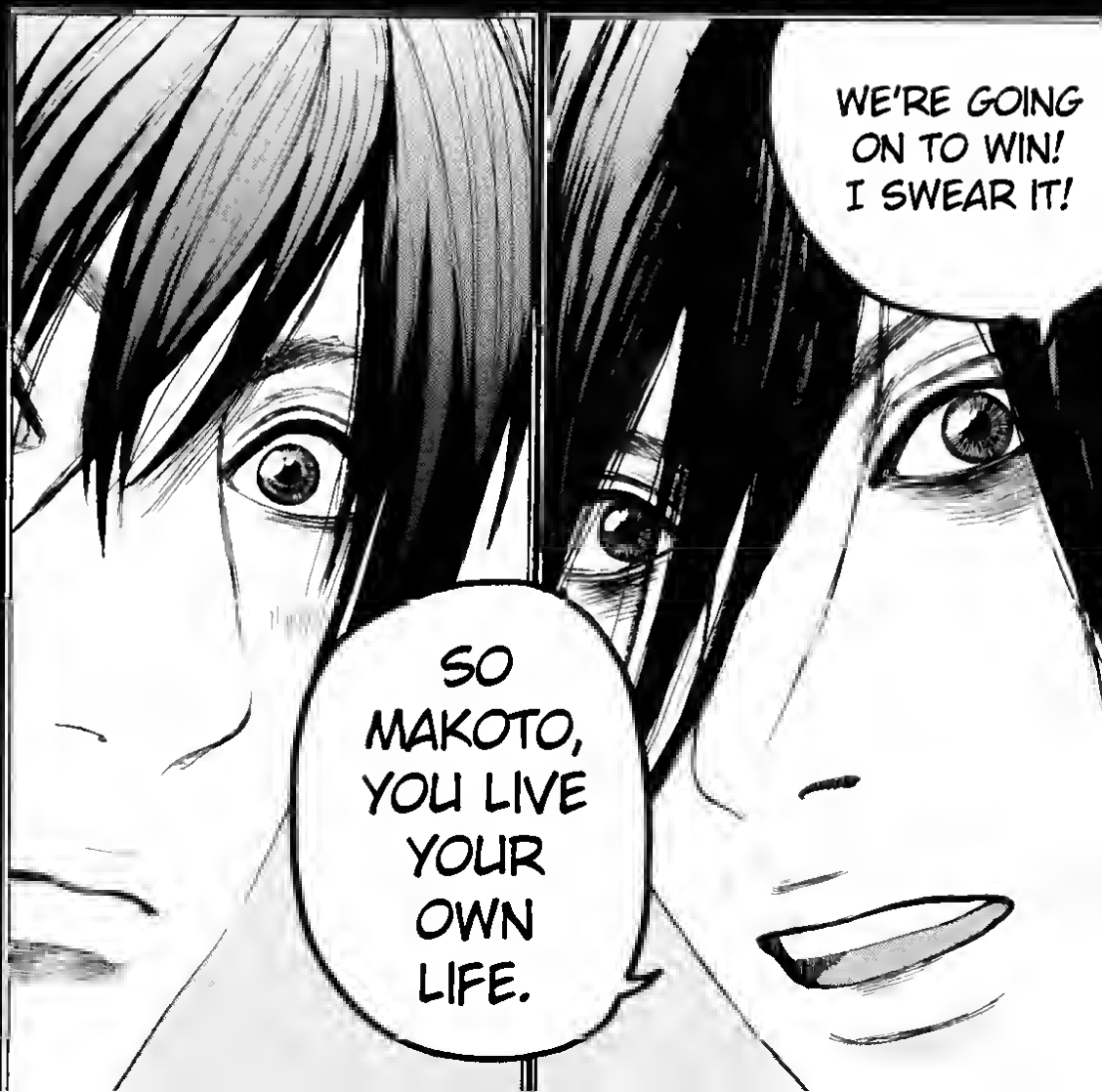
6. SELF-EXPRESSION

HERE'S WHERE HE WORKS PART-TIME.
eather かわぜみ
SIGN: LEATHER KAWASEMI
IN 22 SHORT DAYS.
HE, THE MAN WHO'LL BE FIRST VICTIM
JUNE 13TH (FRIDAY)
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE HUMERUS AND THE SHOULDER BLADES... THERE'S NO MISTAKING ANY OF IT:
THE BREADTH OF THAT STERNUM.
LAOCOÖN STATUE
Gruppo del Laocoonte
Believed to have been made between 160 BC and 20 BC
Currently on display in the Vatican Museums

BOOK: ANCIENT GREEK SCULPTURES

I'LL WORK ON THE CASE.
MAKOTO, YOU WORK ON YOUR SCULPTING.

BUT YOU, MAKOTO, WILL BE DIFFERENT.
THE CRIMES ENDED MY LIFE.
Aren't there better things to do?
YOU WANT ME TO SCULPT NOW?


WE'RE GOING ON TO WIN! I SWEAR IT!
SO MAKOTO, YOU LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE.

SIGN: LEATHER KAWASEMI

SIGN: WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

AND DIDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH THE MAN.
I HATED HIM,
THE FIRE HAPPENED.
THEN,
WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
WE SEVERED ALL TIES,
Notice of Withdrawal
Kenzaki Makoto
AND I HEARD HE MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES.
A RECKLESS ATTITUDE,
HE HAD A SHORT FUSE,
13, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE.
TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN.
I'LL FIND A CLUE TO THE CULPRIT.
THIS TIME, I WILL GET INVOLVED.

SFX. RING X2

SFX RUSH

SFX BATHUMP!

SFX: MM!
ME?
YOU JUST REMINDED ME OF A GUY I HATE. WE FOUGHT, BACK IN THE DAY...
Man,
YOU'RE ENTIRELY THE WRONG AGE.
Wrong person.
HUH?
NO...
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU'D TREAT A NEW CUSTOMER LIKE THIS?
Telling him he's the spitting image of a guy he hates?
THAT MUST'VE PUT YOU IN A BAD MOOD.
MY BAD.
... THIS IS JUST HOW I ACT...
WHEN DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS.
Guess I'm not much cut out for it.

IT'S CAUSE OF STUFF LIKE THAT THAT ME N' THE GUY I MENTIONED CAME TO BLOWS...
Sorry.
MAN, SERIOU-SLY.
I meant nothin bad by it.

SFX: RING X2
KINA~
OH, MY MAN.

HUH...?
WAS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

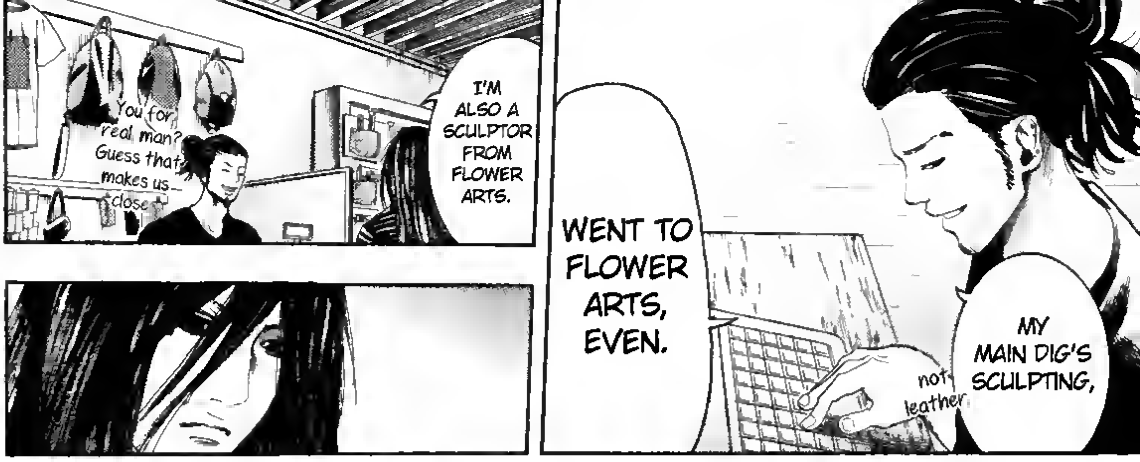
YOU WANNA GET DUMPED?
GIMME THE RABBIT SKIN— I'M MAKIN' MY GIRL A POUCH.
OWWW.
Ahaha

SFX: RING!
KI-CHAN!
カラン
Lemme see
For the pouch
HOW'S THIS DESIGN?

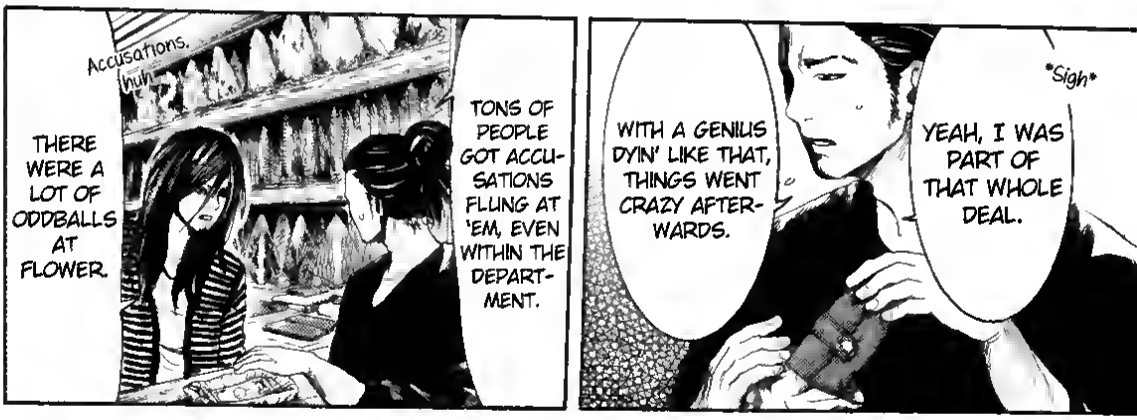
YAY!
The alligator skin came in!

KINU, BRO!
SFX: RING
AGAIN, YOU OLD HAG? SHOW ME—I'LL FIX IT.
MY WALLET BROKE!
Help!
POLICE BELIEVE THEY HAVE FOUND THE BODY OF KINUGAWA KEIJI-SAN.
YA HAPPEN T'HAVE A MOTIVE??
IF I'D OPENED UP MY HEART TO HIM BACK AT COLLEGE,
WOULD THE FUTURE HAVE CHANGED?
HE'S GOT TONS OF FRIENDS, TOO?
NOT JUST ENEMIES—
WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO GET TO KNOW HIM?
DID I JUST DECIDE I HATED HIM

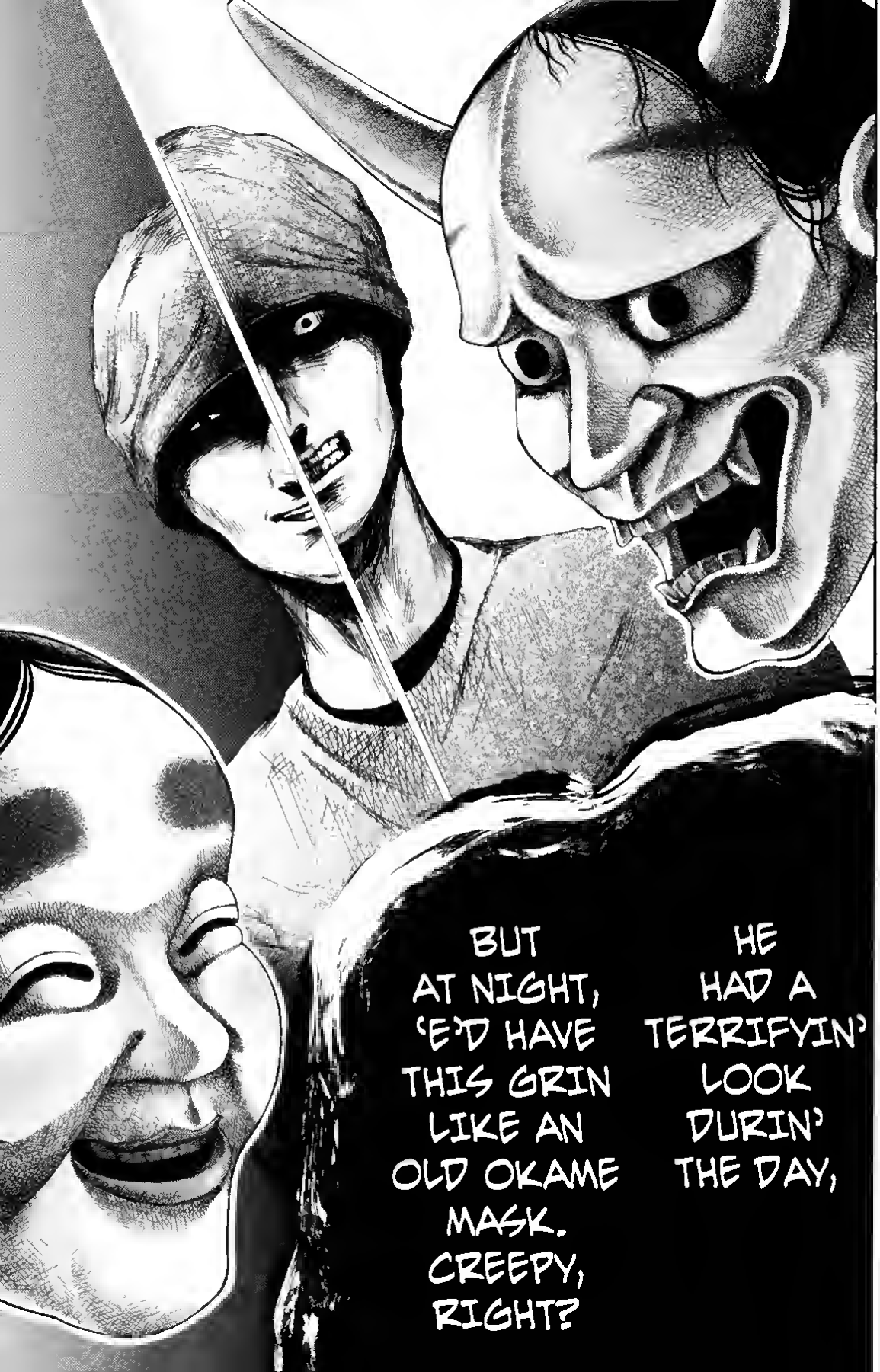
I MADE THAT ONE.
¥12,000
THIS ONE.
OH. IT LOOKS NICE.
HUH ...?
I'D GIVE IT TO YOU FOR 8,000.
I made it myself, after all
YOU'LL MAKE ME BLUSH.
COOL.
Heh heh
...
THANKS.
¥12,000


You for real, man? Guess that makes us... close.
I'M ALSO A SCULPTOR FROM FLOWER ARTS.
WENT TO FLOWER ARTS, EVEN.
not leather.
MY MAIN DIG'S SCULPTING,

THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF A PROFESSOR OF SCULP-TING?
OH YEAH, WASN'T THERE A FIRE THERE...

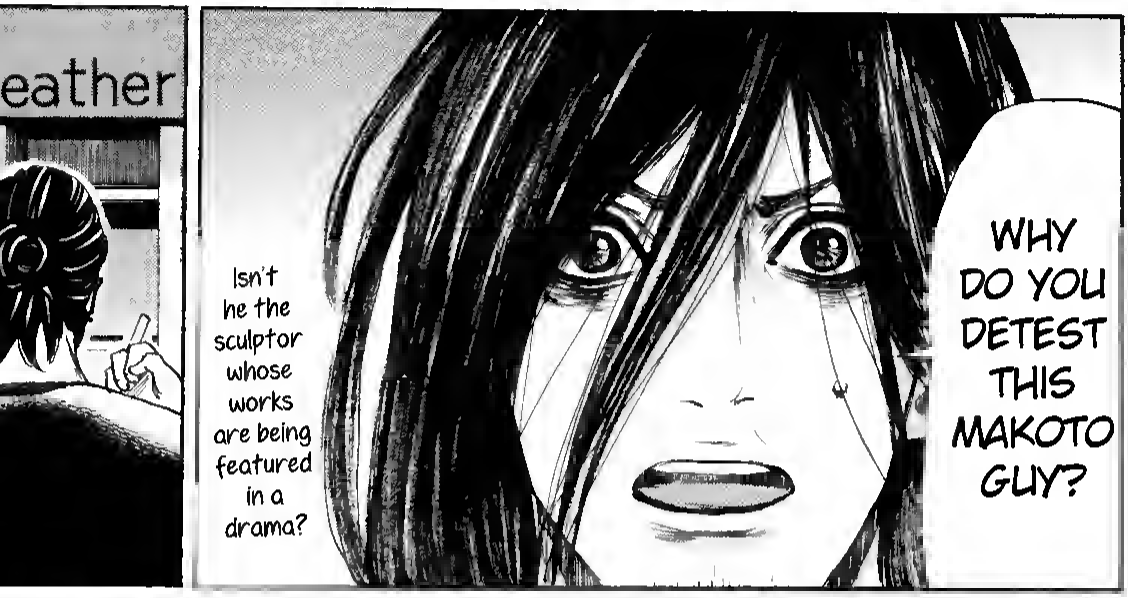

Accusations, huh.
THERE WERE A LOT OF ODDBALLS AT FLOWER.
TONS OF PEOPLE GOT ACCU-SATIONS FLUNG AT 'EM, EVEN WITHIN THE DEPART-MENT.
*Sigh*
WITH A GENIUS DYIN' LIKE THAT, THINGS WENT CRAZY AFTER-WARDS.
YEAH, I WAS PART OF THAT WHOLE DEAL.

OH YEAH. THERE WAS A DANGEROUS ONE, TOO.
'ROUND THEN, WE'D FIND DEAD BIRDS ALL 'ROUND THE SCHOOL.
AND THE GUY THE RUMOR SAID DID IT...


HE HAD A TERRIFYIN' LOOK DURIN' THE DAY,
BUT AT NIGHT, 'E'D HAVE THIS GRIN LIKE AN OLD OKAME MASK. CREEPY, RIGHT?

SANIGUMA.
HE'D BARELY SAY A WORD.
AND ACTED LIKE HE HAD A FEW SCREWS LOOSE.
What's more,
IS THAT SO?
NO MATTER WHO'D TALK TO HIM,
IF Y'KNEW THE PROFESSOR, MAYBE YOU KNEW HIM: THE PRO-FESSOR'S FLUNKY,
THAT SAID, HE WASN'T A STUDENT.
SFX: THUD
I LIKE YOU, MAN.
Ow!
KENZAKI MAKOTO'S HIS NAME— HE WAS AT FLOWERS, TOO, AND HE...
STILL, WHAT A COINCIDENCE. THE GUY I HATE, THE ONE YOU LOOK LIKE—
Oh, shit. There I go again.
Saniguma
AGAIN...
I'M SURE THE WHOLE PLACE WAS FILLED WITH NUTBALLS DURIN' YOUR TIME, TOO.
Ahaha

GANGLY, AIN'T YA?
You eating right?
I KNOW A GOOD PLACE; HOW 'BOUT WE EAT THERE SOMETIME?
And lemme make up for my attitude. It'll be my treat.


WHY DO YOU DETEST THIS MAKOTO GUY?
Isn't he the sculptor whose works are being featured in a drama?

...SCULPTURE'S A FINE ART. A PURE ART.
YOU DO IT FOR YOURSELF.
YOU FIGHT WITH YOURSELF TO MAKE SOMETHIN' GREAT.
You ain't competing with others
BUT MAKOTO, HE'S DOIN' COMMERCIAL WORK, RIGHT?
FLATTERIN' THE SHOW'S AUDIENCE WHILE PRODUCIN' HIS WORKS.
AND COMMERCIAL WORK MEANS COMPETIN' WITH OTHER GUYS' SCULPTURES.

IT AIN'T REAL SCULP-TURE.
SHIT LIKE THAT'S JUST THERE TO LOOK PRETTY.
I'M KILLIN' HIM GOOD.
IF I MEET HIM SOME-WHERE,
SCREW PEOPLE LIKE HIM, WHO SELL THEIR SOULS.

KIDDING!
Don't look so frightened.

I'M HEADING THERE NOW.
To the leather-work shop
NAH, I'M ALREADY BACK HOME.
More importantly
WE'RE TAKING SCULPTING SERIOUSLY, RIGHT?
YEAH!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
Dammit, and I came all this way, too...
I'll be heading home now, so you take care of dinner.
HUH?
A DIFFERENCE IN ARTISTIC OPINION?
SFX: FLASH!
YOU WANT ME TO LOOK OUT FOR KINUGAWA?
SFX: STEP!
!

Credits:
Raw Providor: Lupa
Translator: Dowolf
Editor: Lupa
Redrawer: svines85
QCer: Lupa